

American Indian Day

Suggested Observance Activities

Following are suggested activities to be adopted to suit the needs, ages, and abilities of the learners. Learning experiences are not to be limited to these activities, rather, allow for brainstorming. Help the learners to find appropriate activities that will facilitate understanding the past and present contributions that Indian people have made to the United States.

Seek a proclamation from your school superintendent or mayor to specifically declare the fourth Friday in September American Indian Day in your school and community.

Promote and support programs, assemblies, field trips and functions in the school and community in honor of the day.

Write short biographical sketches of American Indians and place them in a class "book."

Encourage the reading of poems, stories and essays by Indian writers.

Compile a list of the differences and/or similarities of customs, values, and beliefs between the American Indians and other ethnic groups.

Collect pictures and drawings of Indians for a bulletin board. Identify and discuss stereotypes as depicted in the selections.

Have students write and produce a play describing important Indian contributions to the world, stressing the role played by the Indians.

Research and identify the foods domesticated by American Indians and plan a menu using these items. If possible, prepare several selections and sample them.

Prior to going on a field trip to an important Indian site or museum, prepare a list of questions to ask and itemize things to look for on the field trip.

Design, on a large piece of paper, a postage stamp to commemorate American Indian Day in Montana.

Design a contemporary garment or fashion item for a style show using an Indian Motif.

Make a poster commemorating American Indian Day. Use five Indian symbols and/or Indian words.

Debate the pros and cons of having an Indian Awareness Day.

Develop a poster or drawing that could be used on a billboard placed at the Montana state boundary proclaiming American Indian Day in Montana, stressing the contributions made to the state by its Indians.

Create an Indian game and play it.

Create a radio broadcast commemorating American Indian Day in Montana.

Develop questions and information regarding American Indians in Montana on slips of paper and place the items in a box. Use a spelldown format for reviewing the information.

On a large piece of newsprint using clay, pipe cleaners, crayons, rubber bands, construction paper, tape and crepe paper streamers, design a modern art representation celebrating American Indian Day.

Design a piece of jewelry that incorporates symbols and materials of the Montana tribes.

Design a monument to the contributions of the American Indians to Montana. Develop a rationale, justify color schemes, symbols, style and architecture. Write a dedication plaque and have a dedication ceremony.

There is a new Indian student in school. Develop a plan to enable the student to feel comfortable and help him/her to acknowledge the unique contributions that American Indians have made to Montana.

Discuss farming techniques. Cite examples of the inventiveness necessary for the Indian to adapt to life in the Montana territory.

Write a contemporary American Indian song.

Develop a school olympics using American Indian games.

Using a Montana road map, observe the process by which Indian trails became the roads of today.

Discuss similarities and differences between the Medicine Man of the Indian culture and the physician and pharmacist of today.

Discuss and identify how Montana law has been influenced by Indian tribal laws.

Make a list of as many states as you can that have names that have an Indian origin.

Bring any Indian artifact that you may have for show and tell.

